

1918

PRESS ADVISORY

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Secretary of Defense William Perry will travel tomorrow to Norfolk to meet with officials of the U.S. Atlantic Command to discuss on-going operations concerning Haiti and Cuba. Additionally, the Secretary will visit with military personnel aboard USS Mount Whitney and USS Eisenhower.

The Secretary will depart Washington mid-morning and return in the late afternoon. There will be no media availability.

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PERRY VISITS HAITI FORCE:

Defense Secretary William Perry will visit personnel aboard the aircraft carrier *Eisenhower* and command ship *Mount Whitney* today, which are scheduled to depart later in the day with troops and arms for Haitian waters, the Pentagon said. The visit will include talks with U.S. Atlantic Command leaders for the second time in three days. Troops from the 10th Mountain Div. at Fort Drum, NY, have been boarding the *Eisenhower* for two days along with attack helicopters and other equipment to be used in any Haitian invasion. The aircraft carrier *American* left Norfolk yesterday for Haitian waters with troops from Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Div. (Reuter)

9/14/84

U.S. sees troops in Haiti for months

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A second aircraft carrier loaded with troops and helicopters sailed for Haiti yesterday, and a top State Department official said U.S. troops would be needed in Haiti for several months after an invasion — until replaced by a United Nations force.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said the initial invasion force — whether it enters Haiti opposed or unopposed by the Haitian military — will remain in the country for "a couple of months" until order is established.

"It will still be necessary for an international force to be deployed because what will have happened, in effect, is the decapitation of the police and military structure there, which will raise the prospect of disorder and violence unless the international community goes in and establishes basic civic order, which will be one of the missions for the multinational force," Mr. Talbott said on Cable News Network.

The aircraft carrier Eisenhower left Norfolk Naval Base yesterday bound for Haiti with some 2,000 troops of the Army's 10th Mountain Division, along with some 50 attack and transport helicopters, military officials said.

The command ship Mount Whitney is set to leave Norfolk today, the last piece of naval equipment to be moved into position for the planned action, said officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Defense Secretary William Perry said no "concrete deadline has been set for Haiti's military rulers to leave. One has not been established at this time," Mr. Perry told reporters during a meeting with Italian Defense Minister Cesare Previti. "That's not to suggest there might not be some change in the future."

Mr. Perry traveled to Norfolk later to meet with military leaders aboard the Eisenhower and Mount Whitney to discuss Haiti operations.

The aircraft carrier America left Norfolk on Tuesday for Haiti and will join a fleet of up to 19

ships that could be called upon to take part in the operation.

Military preparations are moving into the final phase as planners at the Pentagon begin monitoring the weather in the region — Haiti lies within the hurricane belt — and high-tide timetables for the main ports of Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien, on the northern coast.

Mr. Perry said U.S. forces would be in place "very soon" to carry out military operations in Haiti, should the president call upon them.

Pentagon sources said the invasion could come as early as next week and will involve from 15,000 to 20,000 U.S. troops.

Plans call for U.S. special forces troops to infiltrate into Port-au-Prince during the early morning hours of the invasion and take over two airports, knock out military communications, and possibly capture key Haitian military leaders, Pentagon sources said.

In the second phase, Army and Marine Corps troops will enter the capital and Cap-Haitien in large

numbers, using helicopters and landing crafts.

The initial invasion force will seek to disable the Haitian military, including the elite presidential guard force, as quickly as possible.

The Clinton administration is still holding out the hope that Haiti's top three military rulers will flee the country before the U.S.-led incursion, Mr. Talbott said.

U.S. forces will be the first to arrive in Haiti, and as many as 20 other nations will contribute about 2,000 foreign troops who will arrive soon after the initial thrust, the deputy secretary said.

Mr. Talbott said the exact nature of the military operation will depend on whether Haiti's military junta, Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, his chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Philippe Biamby, and Police Chief Michel Francois leave the country beforehand.

"Obviously, if the three dictators have seen the light and de-

cided to leave and the authorities who will then be in place, in effect, welcome the international force and are prepared to work with the international force to permit the restoration of democracy, then the military requirements will be different than if the military force has to go in in a hostile environment," Mr. Talbott said.

An administration official said there are no immediate signs Haitian military leaders plan to step down, although there are unconfirmed reports Chief Francois is open to a possible deal.

Haiti's ousted president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, will return within 10 days of the invasion, Mr. Talbott said.

An Aristide spokesman said Mr. Aristide plans to return almost immediately.

After the invasion, an interim police force with about 500 to 600 international monitors will be set up by the Aristide government, Mr. Talbott said. The monitors will be drawn from "non-American" states of the multinational force, he said.

Once the multinational force establishes order, the United Nations Mission in Haiti will assume responsibility for the peacekeeping phase, Mr. Talbott said.

"It'll be somewhere at the level of about 6,000 personnel, less than half of which will be Americans," Mr. Talbott said. "And not all of those will be military."

● Ben Barber contributed to this report.